Education Analytics Awarded $7.8M Department of Education Grant to Promote Student Literacy

Organization will utilize funding to expand proven K-2 Literacy Intervention in 15 high-need schools across three states

Madison, WI - October 11, 2017 – Education Analytics, Inc., a nonprofit education research firm based in Madison, Wis., has been awarded a $7.8 million Education Innovation and Research (EIR) grant, from the Department of Education, to expand the SPARK Early Literacy Program, a research-based Kindergarten through 2nd grade early reading intervention developed by Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee (BGCGM). Through its newly-created SPARK Center, Education Analytics will implement the SPARK Early Literacy Program in 15 high-need schools in partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs in both urban and rural locale in Wisconsin, Alabama and South Carolina.

The SPARK Early Literacy Program is a cost-effective, early reading intervention that improves student reading achievement through research-based literacy programming that integrates one-on-one tutoring, family engagement, and after-school programming into its design. First launched by BGCGM in 2006, multiple research studies have proven SPARK's effectiveness, and the Center for Research and Reform in Education (CRRE) has described the program as one of a small number of literacy interventions that both work and meet the "strong evidence definitions" laid out in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

(www.evidenceforessa.org/programs/reading/elementary/spark-literacy-program-struggling-readers)

"We are grateful for the opportunity to bring the SPARK Early Literacy Program to more children," said Pat Marcus, Director of Implementation at Education Analytics. "Over the past 11 years, we have seen the tremendous impact this program has had on students' reading achievement and school attendance. The program also fosters opportunities for day school staff and Boys & Girls Clubs staff to collaborate in the best interest of students."

Throughout the 39-month project, researchers at the Office of Socially Responsible Evaluation in Education (SREed) at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will use a randomized control study to evaluate the program's impact, replicability, and sustainability across these new and diverse locales. By the end of the grant, EA's Spark Center will be self-sustained with the capacity to scale the program beyond participating sites and meet the substantial, unmet demand for a proven effective, holistic, cost-effective literacy program.

About Education Analytics

Education Analytics uses data to help clients make informed, data-supported decisions on policies and programs that lead to school and student success. A 501(c)(3) not for profit organization, EA started in 2012 as a result of Dr. Rob Meyer's work on school and educator effectiveness at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Today the non-profit organization works with education systems of all types and sizes across the country to solve tough problems around the topics of data, analytics and education policy. Learn more at www.edanalytics.org.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee (BGCGM), one of the largest and longest youth serving agencies in Milwaukee, offers structured after-school and summer programming to more than 41,000 children and teens each year. Within the safety of 49 Club locations, youth have access to free meals, academic support, role models and opportunities to build character and explore new interests. Through programs like the MarVan Scholars academics program and World of Work, the Clubs provide a structured pathway for members to thrive in all stages

of their education and gain valuable job experience that will help them develop successful careers as adults.

More than 86 percent of the organization's annual budget goes toward youth programming. Charity Navigator, America's largest and most-utilized charity evaluator, has given BGCGM its highest rating of four stars. For more information, please visit www.boysgirlsclubs.org.

About SREed

The Office of Socially Responsible Evaluation in Education at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee empowers educators to use data more effectively to address social inequities in education. Founded in 2015 by Dr, Curtis Jones, SREed is a research organization that understands it has a responsibility to the communities it works with to identify, help develop, and promote successful education strategies for increasing opportunities for disadvantaged students and communities. SREed has conducted a number of important evaluation projects including a number focused on SPARK. Reports of these projects can be found at: www.uwm.edu/sreed

About the Education Innovation and Research Program at the Department of Education

The Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Program, established under section 4611 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), provides funding to create, develop, implement, replicate, or take to scale entrepreneurial, evidence-based, field-initiated innovations to improve student achievement and attainment for high-need students; and rigorously evaluate such innovations. The EIR program is designed to generate and validate solutions to persistent educational challenges and to support the expansion of effective solutions to serve substantially larger numbers of students.

The total costs of this project are $8,546,442. Of this, $7,773,129 or 90% will be financed by federal funds, and $773,313 or 10% will be financed by non-governmental sources.